

The Pennyroyal Papers

Wednesday, February 11th, 1861

SLAVERY MUSINGS AT LEGISLATURE

Our Kentucky Legislature has concluded proceedings regarding the Commonwealth's position, just as the new year begins in a state of uncertainty. While the departure of South Carolina from the Federal Union in December has shaken the faith of many, the General Assembly convened this week to surmise the position of Kentucky's people, and to set those sentiments into legislature.

Once the Speaker set the proceedings into order, the Governor opened by introducing a formal resolution of restraint. Recognizing heightened concerns and uncertainty following our neighboring state's secession and the factors surrounding it, the Governor's proposal explicitly called for no immediate action to be taken regarding the institution of slavery in Kentucky. The resolution emphasized the importance of Slavery to Kentucky's economy and way of life, and that action should be delayed until further consideration.

Other speakers took the floor thereafter. Most notably among them was an unexpected amendment to the Manumission Act, urging legislators to vote to henceforth free slaves forever. Given the outspoken debates earlier in the session regarding the legislator's approval of slavery, and the beginning resolution to hold off on the topic, the amendment was not met with much support. After the speeches concluded, both resolution and amendment took the floor: with the resolution passing with [24-4] votes in favor, and the amendment dying due to a lack of a second.

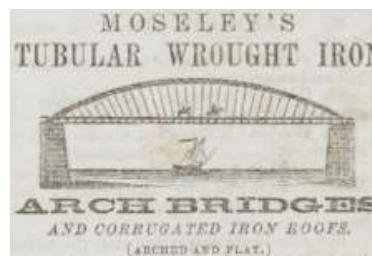


HUMORS OF THE DAY: THE SYMPATHY OF HOLINESS

This excerpt comes from the Harper's Weekly, printed here for our readers:

ON New-Year's Day the Pope received the French officers, and made some remarks to them which are of no consequence. But a letter from Rome informs us that "His Holiness also said that, in defending Gaeta, the French fleet serves a just and holy cause."

The Pope's Holiness has heretofore always been regarded as something peculiar; but now by his own showing it is of pretty much the same nature as the holiness of the Bourbon dynasty of Naples. All right! The Holiness of the Inquisition does well to own its identity with the Holiness of the torture-chamber.



A Plea for Reason – Whig M. Whig

As it stands by January 26, 1861, 5 more of our southern neighbors have since seceded from the Federal Union, and uncertainty continues to seep into the hearts of our people. Tensions continue to rise, and it seems to many that the tear growing across our nation might soon rip its way through our moderate state of Kentucky. Not to mention, as the few ignorant radicals among us grown restless, they urge for the compliance of our state; for Kentucky to rashly announce our own secession. But I, as a noble banker, a patriot, and most importantly, a fellow son of our dear state, cannot sit in silence as these misgivings run amok.

So now I plead, with all readers, that you find steel in your resolve, and in that of those around you, to remain faithful to Kentucky's commitment to the Union. We are nothing short of the very gateway between North and South. As a man who deals in commerce, I can attest that this leaves Kentucky in a state of prosperity: for as the manufacturing of the North makes its way down South and the raw produce that supplies our nation makes its way up North, we find ourselves squarely in the center of that chain. To sever our bond with the Federal Union is to invite a blockade upon the Ohio River, to cut the bonds that sustain our very lives.

But not to mention, this very gateway also leaves us in a state of uncertainty, as we sit at the very center of this conflict! Our state, should we rashly depart, would become nothing short of a battlefield; with both North and South tearing our great land apart. And our property and our peace are, and will continue to be safer under the mighty shield of the United States Constitution, rather than in the hands of chance or the certainty of war.

VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI

News and interview regarding a battery erected by Mississippi residents to prevent U.S. troops from navigating the Mississippi river, printed here for our readers:

Vicksburg is a pretty town of some 5000 inhabitants; it is 400 miles front New Orleans, and is the seat of a flourishing cotton trade.

When the battery was first erected it was placed above the city ; but the position was afterward changed, as we learn from the following paragraph in the Vicksburg Whig of 16th : (summarize this)

"The position of the military companies having been changed to below the steamboat landing, down-stream boats will not be required to step above the city. Captains should bear in mind that they will not be permitted to pass down without making a landing here, and not get below the wharfboat with their boats before indicating their intention of stopping. As boats seldom pass here without landing, they will find no trouble in complying with the above."

The people of the West, who were not a little concerned at this interference with the navigation of their great river, were probably somewhat relieved by the following passage in the last Message of Governor Pettus, of Mississippi:

" I further recommend that the most prompt and efficient measures be adopted to make known to the people of the Northwestern States that peaceful commerce on the Mississippi River will be neither interrupted or annoyed by the authorities or people of Mississippi. This, in my opinion, will materially aid in preserving peace between the Northwestern and the Southern States, if it can be preserved."



“THE STATE HOUSE WHERE THE
CONGRESS OF THE SOUTHERN
CONFEDERACY MET ON FEBRUARY
4TH, 1861”

COLOPHON

The Pennyroyal Papers as edited by Whig M. Whig.

Citations:

<http://www.sonofthesouth.net/leefoundation/civilwar-feb-1861/civil-war-news-1861.htm>

<http://www.sonofthesouth.net/leefoundation/civilwar-feb-1861/civil-war-vicksburg-news.htm>

<https://archive.org/details/harpersweeklyv5bonn/page/88/mode/1up>

Daily commonwealth (The). *Daily Commonwealth* (Frankfort, Ky.), 1861-02-06. Hodges, Todd & Pruett, 1861.